26 May 1978

Dear Harold:

I am enclosing a bunch of clippings for you that have been sitting on my desk for a while. The article titled "The Kennedy Cover-up" by Anthony Summers appeared in the English magazine "The Listener" in conjunction with a BBC1 report by Michael Cockerrill. As far as I know, the BBC1 show has never been shown in the U.S. The article by Alan Berger on Malcolm X I thought you might find interesting.

I haven't come across too many reviews of Epstein's book Legend. Possibly the best one appeared in the New York Times, and that one wasn't really all that great - I'll send you a copy if you don't already have one. Certainly the worst review was in the New York Review of Books which was so bad that I think I threw it away.

Speaking of book reviews, etc. do you know of a Brandeis professor named Jacob Cohen. Apparently, he has just written a book called Conspiracy Fever: the final word on the JFK, RFK, MLK Assassinations - judging by the publisher's advance propaganda, its very pro-Warren commission. If things work out, I'll be reviewing the book for the Boston Globe. I'll find out about the reviewing job in about a week or so. The book is supposed to contain all sorts of new evidence uncovered by the current House investigation. It sounds interesting, if nothing more.

Getting back to Epstein's book, I thought you might be interested in knowing that its not making as much money as apparently anticipated. Epstein got $130,000 from Book of the Month club, and expected to do much better on paperback rights - but on the day of the rights bidding, the telephones were silent. From what I gather, his agent's opening floor bid was just too high for any takers, especially with a book which the paperback publishers consider "too complicated" to interest the average reader. Eventually, the book will be out in paperback as

too much money was initially invested in it, and they can't afford not to have it in paper - but they just won't get the envisioned bags of loot accompanying the deal. I thought you might get some satisfaction in that little bit of gossip - I did.

On to a more pleasant subject - the jazz tapes. One tape is of two big band sessions, recorded in the mid-1950's, by veterans of the Fletcher Henderson band. Rex Stewart, who left the Henderson band in the 1930's to go on to the Ellington Band, does the arranging on this tape. All the big guns of big band, who mostly unemployed at the time these recordings were made (mid 1950's), are present: Rex Stewart on trumpet, Coleman Hawkins on tenor sax, Ben Webster on tenor sax, Hank Jones on piano, Milt Hinton, bass, etc. The second tape consists of recordings made by Coleman Hawkins in the mid-1940's for the defunct Commodore label. These Coleman Hawkins' sessions are among my favorite. I hope you enjoy both tapes. Regards to Lil

sincerely

Nancy